

Principles of Behavior Change

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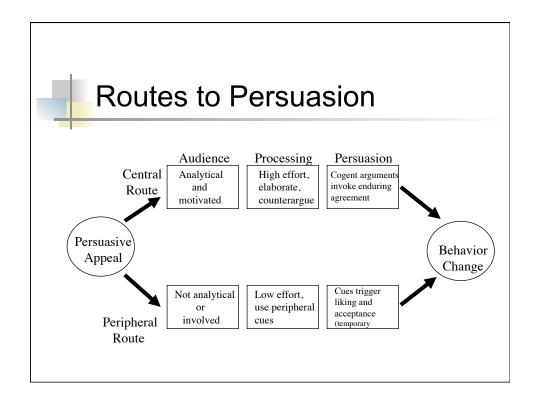
Routes to Persuasion

Central route to persuasion

- analytic, high effort, cogent arguments
- Can produce durable, long-term changes in behavior and agreement

Peripheral route to persuasion

- intuitive, low effort, use heuristics
- Can produce bigger changes in behavior, but not agreement





Peripheral Persuasion

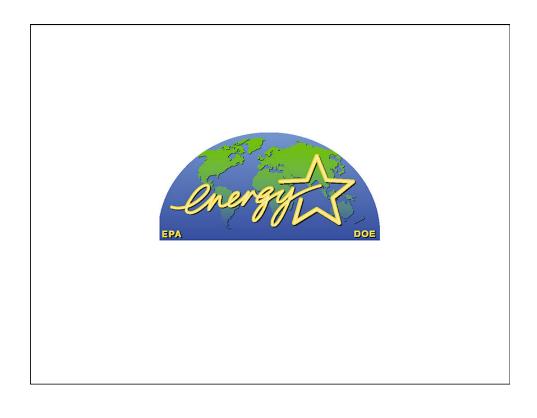
- Persuasion that happens quickly, often without the person recognizing that they have been affected
- Langer's copier study
 - "excuse me, I have five pages. May I use the copier?" -- 60%
 - "... because I'm in a rush" -- 94%
 - "... because I need to make some copies" ____ %
- Persuasion is the process of making peripheral cues work for a purpose

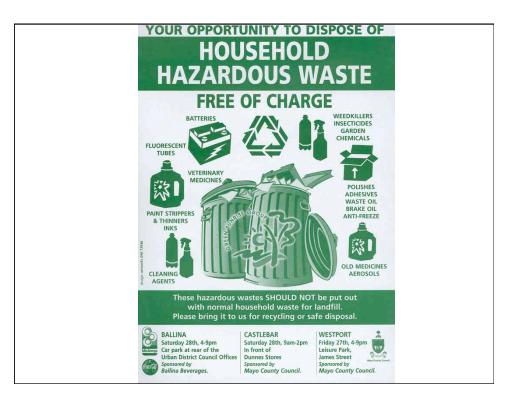












EPA Bumper Sticker





Elements of a Persuasive Appeal

- Audience
 - Topic is personally-relevant or value-based
 - Attentive, distracted, motivated
- Medium
 - Television and radio move quickly (peripheral)
 - Print and internet more self-paced (central)
- Source
 - Credible, likeable, humorous, attractive
- Message
 - Short versus long, humor, attention grabbing



Behavior Change Tools

- 1. Reciprocity
- 2. Commitment and consistency
- 3. Social norms
- 4. Liking
- 5. Scarcity
- 6. Expertise
- 7. Prompts and signage
- 8. Persuasive communication



Principles of Persuasion

- 1. Reciprocation
- The old give and take
- We feel obligated to return favors
- The rule: We should try to repay what another person has provided us
- This rule is found in all cultures!
- Examples
 - Free food
 - Mailings
 - Give-aways

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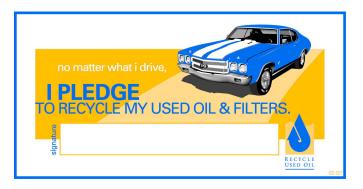


- 2. Commitment and Consistency
- We feel the need for our attitudes and behaviors to be consistent
- Foot-in-the-door
 - Freedman and Fraiser (1966)
 - 17% versus 76%
 - Even a penny will help
 - 32% (\$20.74) versus 58% (\$31.30)

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2. Commitment and Consistency



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- 3. Social norms
- The tendency to see an action as more appropriate when others are doing it
- Normative beliefs and behavior
- Canned laughter -- it works!
- TV commercials
 - fastest growing
 - best-selling

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- 4. Liking
- We are more likely to comply with a request from someone we like (or know)
- Examples
 - Tupperware parties
 - AMWAY
 - Pampered chef
- Block leaders

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5. Scarcity

- Psychological reactance
 - whenever our free choice is limited or threatened, the need to retain control leads us to reassert ourselves
 - we want what we can't have
- Economic models
 - limited supply and high demand=increased value
- Examples
 - limited supply, numbers, or time

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6. Authority and expertise

- We are more likely to comply with the request of a perceived expert
- Dentists, doctors, athletes, professors
- Scientists



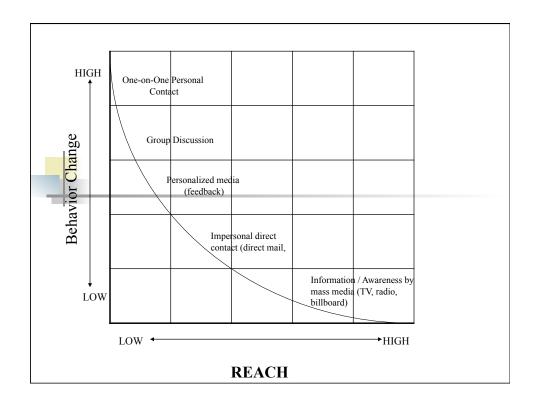
7. Prompts and Signage

- Noticeable
- Self-explanatory
- Proximal to the behavior
- Positive in wording
- Simple behaviors
- CAUTION: Context matters
 - Research example of Neighborhood Watch
 - Research example of littering



8. Persuasive Communication

- Target a specific barrier (structural or psychological)
- Identify target audience
- Medium for reaching the audience
- Message content
- Duration of the intervention



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Media Messages

- Brochures
- Newspaper
- Billing inserts
- Billboards
- Radio
- Television
- Give-aways (premiums)
- Personal communication



Duration

One-shot messages

- Generally ineffective with passive media
- Some exceptions for particularly emotional messages (e.g., Iron Eyes Cody, political ads, humor)
- Messages delivered in person

Branding and tag lines

- Repeated exposure to a message increases liking
- Increases recall, credibility, overall impact
- Tag line: 3-5 words that can be incorporated across media messages
- Multiple media, multiple messages, consistent theme and tag



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